



History of
Fairview & Spring Valley
Congregations

IN
North Dakota



History of
Fairview and Spring Valley
Congregations in North Dakota

by
Floyd Kauffman

Published by the Author
Minot, North Dakota

PRINTED
IN
U.S.A.



Fairview Mennonite Church

Preface

History reveals trends, accomplishments, failures, and victories. The Fairview Mennonite congregation has had its ups and downs, its failures and victories. The following pages are intended to give a review of the past fifty years, with the unpleasant as well as the pleasant. Not all details could be given, for lack of information, but I have tried to give an accurate account of the events as they were enacted as to time and place. Dates from different sources did not always agree, but I have tried to take the most accurate.

I am indebted to the following persons for their help in gathering data and information: I. S. Mast, F.S. Woodiwiss, Thomas Zook, Mrs. Israel Yoder (deceased). Mrs. S. N. Yoder and others; to Melvin Gingerich, for his valuable suggestions for the improvement of this work, to Mrs. Elvin Glick for typing, largely correcting punctuation and sentence structure of this manuscript, to Andrew Glick for his help in proofreading, and to all others who in any way have helped to make this a success.

The manuscript of the Spring Valley congregation is used by the permission of the writer, Edward L. Kauffman and used as he wrote it, except for one insertion as marked.

The first chapter is a brief account of the beginning and work of each place where there was an organized work, whether dispersed or growing, in the North Cental Conference District.

It is the hope of the author that this account of the past fifty years will revive fond memories in the minds of those who in the past have had a share in the life and growth of Fairview and that it may be an encouragement to those yet to come and that the congregational altar fires may burn brightly till Jesus comes.

FLOYD KAUFFMAN.

Introduction

If all the stories of frontier life and things of interest concerning the settlement of the Dakota prairies would be collected and published in book form, I suppose it would make up a large number of volumes. The people who left their homes in Pennsylvania and Ohio to blaze the trail to this unsettled land of promise and opportunity were, in many ways, very much like the ones who remained behind but who were unwilling to brave the risks entailed by such a move. They were parents who were interested in the future welfare of their children; some of them were grandparents; others were mere children. But they were challenged by a vision that could not be forgotten. They were possessed by a faith that overcame fear; by a trust that inspired them to undertake great things in the name of Christ and the church. The trail they blazed has become a high road of progress.

Brother Kauffman has collected from the meager materials available most of the pertinent facts and has combined them in a record that should be interesting to the reader and valuable as an historical document. Being such a compilation it lacks the embellishment of the ordinary story in which the writer might take domestic scenes and weave them into a novel, or a biography, or a historical romance.

The memory of the faithful ones who here lived and testified to the glory of God lives on in the minds of those who knew them. The tombstones in the cemetery at Fairview and at Spring Valley remind us that here lie noble trail blazers who had the faith that it takes to go where He leads. May their memory inspire us who remain to be as faithful and persevering as they!

A. L. GLICK.

Minot, N. Dak.

History of the Conference

Brief Account of the Beginnings of the Work in the Dakota-Montana Mennonite Conference (Now North Central)

In the spring of 1899, the family of Daniel B. Kauffman left the Mennonite community of Cass County, Missouri, with a team and covered wagon for Kenmare, North Dakota. Arriving that fall, Kauffman staked a claim on a homestead seven miles south of Kenmare. There was no homestead shack in sight and no markings on his quarter. So he cut brush from around the lake near Kenmare and strung it out to his claim to make it possible for him to find the way. It seems that his family was the first Mennonite family to locate in North Dakota.¹ In the year 1899 and again in 1900 other families came to Kenmare. So by the year 1902 eleven members were served communion by J. J. Hartzler of Garden City, Missouri. They were attending a union Sunday school with occasional preaching by Methodist, Evangelical, Lutheran, and Mennonite preachers. In October 1904, S. G. Lapp organized the group into the Spring Valley congregation, ordained D. B. Kauffman minister, and Amos Ogburn deacon. They built their meetinghouse that winter, dedicating it in March 1905.

In the spring of 1902 the Israel Yoder family from Logan County, Ohio, settled one and one-half miles north of the village of Surrey, being the first Mennonite family in this community. Early in the year of 1903 a group of twenty-two members of the Big Valley churches of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, were organized into a congregation, and one of their number, I. S. Mast, ordained to the ministry. Early the same spring this group moved to the Surrey community and became the first organized Mennonite congregation in North Dakota. Their meetinghouse was built in 1905 and dedicated on Thanksgiving Day.

In September 1906 preaching services were held in the David R. Landis home, six members present, at Portal, North Dakota, and preaching appointments were supplied whenever possible. This continued until 1912 when it was transferred to Coalridge, Montana.

Preaching services were held with a few members at various times at Colgan, Trenton and Shermo, North Dakota, during the years 1907 to 1912. The members living at these places then either moved to Coalridge, Montana, or to their former home communities. These members that stayed were organized into a congregation continuing to the present time. Menno

Harshberger was the first Sunday-school superintendent according to a field note in the *Gospel Herald* of March 28, 1912, p. 828.

Field Note: Bro. I. S. Mast of Minot, North Dakota, spent some time with the brotherhood of eastern Montana recently and seems well pleased with the outlook there. A number of meetings were held and a Sunday school organized with Menno Harshberger as Supt. The prayers of the Brotherhood are solicited.

In the summer of 1916, as a result of a series of meetings held near Wolford, North Dakota, a congregation was organized and a meetinghouse built and dedicated. This is now known as the Lakeview congregation.

The congregation at Bloomfield, Montana, started as the result of a series of meetings in the summer of 1917 and was organized into a congregation known as Red Top because their meetings were held in the Red Top schoolhouse. Their meetinghouse was built in 1935 and dedicated on Easter Sunday 1936.

Calkins, in Meagher County, Montana, is the location where a few families were organized into a congregation Dec. 9, 1916, with Frank Roth as minister. When he moved away John G. Hochstetler was ordained Nov. 11, 1921. I. S. Mast of Surrey, North Dakota, had bishop oversight. Services ceased in the fall of 1920 when nearly all of the group moved away.

The C. H. Nafziger family were the first to move near Clyde Park, Rock Creek Township, Park County, Montana, in 1918. A few families followed and were organized into a Sunday school by I. S. Mast on Nov. 12, 1921. C. H. Nafziger and Aaron Eichelberger were superintendents. John G. Hochstetler of Calkins filled appointments twice a month until the spring of 1924 when he moved there. When the group left in 1926 he moved back to Calkins. They worshiped in a rented Methodist church building. Hard times, uncertain crops, and depression are the causes given for moving away.

The Beulah congregation near Westport, South Dakota, twenty miles north of Aberdeen, was organized June 16, 1921, by D. G. Lapp of Roseland, Nebraska. A Sunday school had been organized May 9, 1920. Before this the members worshiped with the Methodist church in Westport. There were also a few members located west of Aberdeen about seven miles. These two groups worshiped together at Westport until the work was transferred to a schoolhouse west of Aberdeen in the fall of 1924. By 1928 only a few members remained. There was no resident minister except during the summers of 1925 and 1926 when Milo Kauffman attended the Northern States Teachers' College at Aberdeen and preached each Sunday for them. Causes given for dispersion are drought, depression, lack of harmony, and disunity.

The first family to move near St. Elizabeth, Manitoba, Canada, was the Seth Miller family in 1915. More moved in by 1918 and a Sunday school was organized March 1 with A. A. Zook and Seth Miller as superintendents. There were twelve charter members. Since there was no resi-

dent minister, appointments were filled by ministers from other congregations in the Dakota-Montana district. The work was discontinued in 1926 when the families moved away because of the depression and prejudice against German-speaking people.

The year 1922 found a few members from other congregations in the Northwest organizing a Sunday school near Ulen, Minnesota. Members at this place were organized into the Sharon Valley congregation in 1924, but this dissolved by 1939. They moved to other places.

The Lake Region Sunday School was organized in 1926 with an enrollment of 24. The congregation was organized May 27, 1928, with J. C. Gingerich as the first pastor. This is now a thriving congregation.

The first regular service held by the Red River congregation was in April 1928 in the Congregational Church of Amenia, North Dakota. This was later moved to Casselton where they now have regular services in a church recently purchased (1950) from the Episcopalian group and rededicated in June 1951. A. J. Stoll is the pastor.

In August 1921, S. C. Yoder held four services in the home of F. A. Sinclair, of Exeland, Wisconsin, six members being present.

In the summer of 1929 the first Sunday school was organized at Exeland, Wisconsin. Now they have a new house of worship and Walter Kauffman is the pastor.

April 1926 was the date when the first family moved into the Sheldon, Wisconsin, community. A Sunday school was organized in 1929 and was held in the various homes of the community. In 1931 the Sunday school was re-organized and held in the Windfall schoolhouse south of Exeland. In 1932 Sunday school was held in the East Grow schoolhouse and continued until 1934 when they were organized into the Sheldon congregation with eleven members. Their meetinghouse was built and dedicated in 1939 and D. L. Martin was ordained as pastor. This is now a growing congregation.

The South Lawrence congregation near Glen Flora, Wisconsin, developed from a small beginning in 1940. Now they also have a new church building and Leroy Schrock is their resident pastor.

The Northern Light Mission began in 1938 when two couples, the Irwin Schantzes and Linford Hackmans, from Souderton, Pennsylvania, sold all their property except what they could put on a two-wheeled trailer and entered the great Northland with a vision of the lost and a compassion for their souls. This beginning developed into widely scattered settlements and mission stations throughout Minnesota. Mission stations where workers are located at present are: Loman, White Earth, (now known as Strawberry Lake congregation), Menahga Leader, Cass Lake, Kitchie, Gracetown, Nashwauk, and Rainy River.

Loman: Home base from where work is being carried on now (1952) to the Northlands about the Lake of the Woods. Irwin Schantz and William Kurtz are ministers. There is a church building and an organized congregation here.

White Earth: Known as the Strawberry Lake congregation. A church was built and dedicated in June 1948. Llewellyn Groff was leader and pastor here until the summer of 1952, when he moved to Loman to help in the Northland. Orie Schrock was ordained to be assistant pastor. Gerald Derstine is superintendent of the Sunday school.

Menahga: In the spring of 1944 three Bible schools were held in the community under the direction of Irwin Schantz. Later Nathaniel Keeler and family and Clyde Allebach and family came to work the field. Preaching appointments were filled by visiting brethren until Aug. 1, 1948, when Clyde Allebach was ordained as pastor. In 1949 plans for a church building were completed and the ground-breaking service was Sept. 10, 1949. The basement has been used for services since its completion, but the building is not yet completed. (1952).

Leader: This congregation was developed as a result of Bible schools. Later a church building was bought and moved here. Jonas Beachy was ordained as pastor on Feb. 3, 1951. Gerald Hofer is superintendent of the Sunday school.

Cass Lake: The group at this place are worshipping at the Gibson schoolhouse south of Cass Lake. Mark Landis formerly of Pennsylvania was ordained pastor in the summer of 1952.

Graceton: The members here worship in the Graceton schoolhouse. Vernon Hochstetler was ordained pastor of the work here. George Zook assists as Sunday school superintendent.

Rainy River: It is under the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

Kitchie and Nashwauk: These stations are under the direction and supervision of the Conservative brethren of Iowa and Ohio.

1. Some Amish settled in Rolette County in 1894.

History of the Fairview Congregation

In the winter of 1903 while D. D. Miller of Middlebury, Indiana, was doing evangelistic work in the "Big Valley" near Allensville, Pennsylvania, he learned of a group that was considering North Dakota as a future home. Learning that there were five Mennonite families and some single members, making a total of twenty-two, he advised the ministry of their respective congregations to organize them and ordain one of their number to the ministry. The ministry of the Big Valley congregations, Maple Grove and Allensville, called for this meeting on March 1, 1903.¹

Allensville, Pa.—As about twenty or more of the members will move to Surrey, North Dakota, in the near future, we believe it has been wisely decided to hold communion services on March 15, and with the help of God to ordain a minister from among the colony who contemplate moving to that place. By the kind providence of God they expect to hold church services, Sunday school, and Bible meetings regularly every Sunday as soon as they arrive at their destination. May the grace and richest blessings of God rest and abide forever on the new church.

As a result of this meeting a communion service was called for at which time a minister to serve the new congregation was to be ordained from among the group going to North Dakota. The communion service was held at the Maple Grove congregation on March 15, after which votes were cast for a minister. Brother I. S. Mast of Atglen was called to serve the new congregation and the church in the Northwest. Bishop Michael Yoder of Mattawana, Pennsylvania, had oversight of the congregation and of that day's work. After the call and examination meeting, Bishop Yoder gave I. S. Mast his charge as minister.

This group took the train at Reedsville, Pennsylvania, for North Dakota the afternoon of March 30 and arrived at Surrey, North Dakota, the evening of April 2. Surrey, at that time, consisted only of a depot and a store, the depot being only a small wooden windbreak.

The Israel Yoder family of Logan County, Ohio, had already made their home near Surrey, having come in the spring of 1902. That spring fuel was very scarce. Some people used for fuel cow chips which were picked up on the prairies. Scarlet fever was very bad the fall of 1903. One son of Dave Hooleys died because of the disease.² The first families lived in small shacks or sod houses the first years in North Dakota. These mem-

bers gathered in the Surrey schoolhouse on Sunday afternoon, April 19, 1903, and organized a Sunday school. I. T. Zook was chosen superintendent and Ira Yoder (son of Israel Yoder) secretary-treasurer. During the first year, Sunday school and preaching service were held each Sunday afternoon with good outside attendance. The following were the charter members of the Fairview congregation: Mr. and Mrs. Israel Yoder, from Logan County, West Liberty, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Levi B. Yoder and family, Sallie, Samuel, Emma, Ira, and Lizzie; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hooley; Mr. and Mrs. Israel Zook and family, Maude, Lomie, and Homer; Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Mast; Mr. and Mrs. John B. Yoder and family, Effie and Fred, all from Mifflin County, Belleville, Pennsylvania. In 1904 services were moved from the Surrey school to the Grassland school, a few miles southeast of Surrey and the time of meeting was changed from the afternoon to the forenoon.

The work grew from the beginning and in a few months several young people applied for membership. Then the question of bishop help arose and the congregation took steps to supply this need. It was decided that Brother Mast write to their former bishop, Michael Yoder of Belleville, Pennsylvania, for help. In reply minister I. S. Mast received a certificate from Bishop Yoder authorizing him to perform the duties of a bishop until further bishop oversight would be provided. At the same time the Maple Grove ministry advised that Brother D. D. Zook of Newton, Kansas, come to North Dakota and assist the minister in charge to establish the work. In November 1903 D. D. Zook came and held a few meetings, conducted communion service and performed the first marriage ceremony when S. N. Yoder and Sallie Yoder were married.

The spring of 1904 brought three more families from Pennsylvania, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Yoder; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Z. Yoder and family; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Yoder Jr.; and one family from Topeka, Indiana, the Milton Zooks.³

Surrey, N. Dak., May 11, 1904: Greeting to all the Herald readers. I will try to inform all how our little congregation here at Surrey is prospering. There are nine families living here and the church has a total membership of thirty-nine souls; five families came here in the spring of 1903 from Mifflin Co., Pa. Three more families came from Pennsylvania this spring; one family from Topeka, Ind., and one from Ohio located here in 1902. Bro. Isaac S. Mast is our preacher; he was ordained in Pennsylvania shortly before we started for North Dakota. We have preaching here, three Sundays out of the month and the fourth Sunday Bro. Mast goes to Kenmare, sixty miles northwest of this place, where a small flock is located, consisting of five or six families who were formerly from Cass Co., Mo. We have a lively Sunday school, which was reorganized on May 1st. Bro. J. M. Hartzler, formerly of Allensville, Pa., is our superintendent; I. T. Zook, assistant; Maud Zook, chorister; Lizzie M. Yoder, secretary. We organized a Young People's meeting the same evening.

In July of this same year the first series of meetings was held with George Lapp of Roseland, Nebraska, as evangelist. Four souls confessed

Christ and were added to the church. That year the question of conference affiliation arose and the church at Surrey voted to apply to the Missouri-Iowa Mennonite conference for admittance. This application was granted at their annual meeting that fall and the charge of the congregation was given to Bishop Sam G. Lapp, South English, Iowa. This first trip to Dakota was in October of 1904 at which time he received the Surrey congregation into the Missouri-Iowa Mennonite conference. At the same time he served communion to the congregation and ordained J. M. Hartzler to the ministry to assist at this place.⁴

Surrey, N. Dak., Oct. 14, 1904: The congregations in this community were recently much encouraged. Bishop S. G. Lapp of South English, Iowa, came into our midst on September 30. Bro. Isaac Mast accompanied him to Baden, where communion and ordination services were held on October 6. Daniel B. Kauffman was ordained to the ministry and Bro. Amos Ogburn as deacon. On Oct. 9 communion services were held for the Surrey congregation and Bro. J. M. Hartzler, formerly of Mifflin Co., Pa., was ordained to the ministry. We ask the prayers of the brotherhood in behalf of these dear brethren, that God may bless them in their work.

LEVI B. YODER

In the spring of 1905 the Surrey congregation organized a second Sunday school ten miles southwest of Surrey at the Gallagher schoolhouse. This continued for several years. The growth of the congregation and need for a meetinghouse is evident from a correspondence by Isaac Mast in the Herald of Truth.⁵

Surrey, N. Dak., April 27, 1905. To the Herald readers: On March 30 Bro. C. H. Byler of West Liberty, Ohio, came to visit us and remained until April 3. During his stay he preached four sermons which were very much appreciated. On April 23 our counsel meeting was held. Harmony and peace was expressed by the members and the communion was announced for April 30. Ground is broken for our new meetinghouse, which we very much need. We hold our services in a schoolhouse, 16 by 24, and have had as high as seventy in the audience. Bro. D. C. Plank and family are moving here from Pennsylvania this spring, thus adding several more to our congregation and Sunday school. We ask an interest in the prayers of God's children.

I. S. MAST

The congregation, now called "Fairview" built their meetinghouse two miles south of Surrey and dedicated it on Thanksgiving Day with Brother Sam G. Lapp in charge. At this time I. T. Zook was ordained to serve the congregation as deacon.

Surrey, N. Dak., Nov. 14, 1905: Dear readers of the Herald: Bro. S. G. Lapp of South English, Iowa, came into our midst on the first of November, and on Thursday evening, Nov. 2, conducted a meeting for us at our usual place of meeting in the Grassland schoolhouse. On Friday forenoon, Nov. 10, we had our new meetinghouse opened for the first time for worship and Bro. Lapp conducted the services. Our

new meetinghouse is called "The Fairview Mennonite Meeting House," and is located near Surrey, N. Dak. In the afternoon we had our communion service, and also ordained a deacon, Bro. Israel T. Zook. May God bless the brother and fit him for his work. Cor.⁶

Noah Metzler, Nappanee, Indiana, conducted a series of meetings this same year.⁷

Surrey, N. Dak., July 4, 1905, Dear Herald readers, Greetings in Jesus' name. We have of late had a great spiritual feast. Thank God. Bro. Metzler of Nappanee, Ind., came here June 17 and began a series of meetings at the Galiger schoolhouse. He held meetings there almost a week. The second week he held meetings at the Grassland schoolhouse. The meetings were well attended and good interest was manifested. The result of these meetings was that ten precious souls confessed Christ as their Saviour. May God bless and keep them, is our prayer. LEVI B. YODER

Six persons were added by baptism. The main carpenter for the building of the church was David Zook of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. He was assisted by Amos K. Mast, David Kauffman, and ——— Plank, all of Belleville, Pennsylvania. The lumber was hauled by team and wagon from Norwich, a village seven miles east of Surrey. A. K. Mast had the honor of breaking the sod for the foundation.⁸ Ground for the building was donated by one of the members, J. Z. Yoder.

In March 1907 a Bible Conference was held at Surrey with Brother J. S. Shoemaker, Freeport, Illinois, as the main speaker, according to announcement in the *Herald of Truth*.⁹

Bible Meeting.—The Lord willing, a six-day Bible Meeting will be held at the Fairview meetinghouse, two miles south of Surrey, N. Dak., on March 4-9. J. S. Shoemaker of Freeport, Ill., and J. M. Hartzler of this place are instructors. All are cordially invited. Especially do we crave an interest in your prayers, that the meeting may be to the promotion of the Master's cause. LEVI S. GLICK

During the same year A. D. Wenger, Millersville, Pennsylvania, held a series of meetings. Two souls confessed Christ and were added to the membership by water baptism. A Sunday school meeting was organized at Baden, North Dakota, (this report is found in *Herald of Truth*, April 27, 1905, p. 133) to be held alternately each year between Baden and Surrey. The second meeting was held at Fairview in June 1906.¹⁰ They were continued until June 1920, the time of the merger of the western conferences when the Dakota-Montana conference was organized and its annual meeting took the place of the former Sunday school conferences. The first time a session of church conference of the Missouri-Iowa district met at Fairview was in the spring of 1908.¹¹ In June 1908, Bishop Daniel Kauffman ordained I. S. Mast bishop of the Dakota field.¹²

From an article written by Daniel Kauffman titled "The North Dakota Field," we take the following: During these meetings at Surrey and at Baden, the voice of the congregations was taken with reference to ordaining a bishop for the North Dakota field. Both congregations expressed themselves unanimously in favor. As to their choice for the

brother who should serve them in this capacity, they were not so unanimous. So we took the matter again before the Lord in prayer, following the example of the disciples (Acts 1:15-26) and the lot fell upon Bro. Isaac Mast, of Minot, N. Dak. May God endue our dear brother with power from on high to discharge the duties of his responsible calling. (Note. It seems by all the notes available this ordination took place at Baden, June 21, 1908.)

J. M. Hartzler moved from Fairview to Maryland in the fall of 1909.¹³ Bro. J. M. Hartzler formerly of Minot, N. Dak. and Fort Wayne Mission, stopped off at Scottdale, visiting a few hours at the publishing house, on his way to Mifflin Co., Pa., thence to Long Green, Md., where he and his family are moving. Bro. Hartzler has been asked to locate at this place. May the Lord use him to His glory.

Another field note appearing in the *Gospel Herald* Dec. 16, 1909, speaks encouragingly of the work in North Dakota.¹⁴

Bro. I. T. Zook of Minot, N. Dak., in a recent letter, expressed himself hopefully and cheerfully concerning the work in North Dakota, and tells of a series of meetings in Williams County which was to have been started by Bro. I. S. Mast last week. The Lord bless and prosper the work.

In the summer of 1911 I. T. Zook and family withdrew from the congregation and joined the Nazarene Church in Surrey. His belief that the Sunday-school work was for everyone regardless of denominational affiliation and the life of holiness being emphasized, met with disapproval of the minister. To avoid strained relationship between brethren they withdrew. This only stirred the remaining members to greater activity. Brother John Blosser, Rawson, Ohio, held a series of meetings which strengthened the congregation spiritually.

In the summer of 1914 the congregation made a call for another minister and L. S. Glick was ordained. He was chosen by lot, two other brethren being in the lot with him.¹⁵

Taken from a correspondence:

On July 4 in our business meeting steps were taken to locate a brother in the Surrey congregation and to ordain him to the ministry. We had things in such a condition that when Bro. S. G. Shetler came with his assistance we were blessed in effecting an ordination on Wednesday, July 22. Votes were cast, three brethren were chosen as candidates for the ministry, the brethren, Levi S. Glick, Ira L. Yoder, and Robert E. Myers. On Thursday evening the brethren passed through the lot and Bro. Levi S. Glick was chosen of God and ordained into the ministry.

I. S. MAST

That year Brother S. P. Miller and family moved in from Michigan making a gain of eight members. The following year Brother Miller was ordained by J. M. Kreider of Palmyra, Missouri,¹⁶ to serve the congregation as deacon.

On Sunday, June 13, Bro. S. P. Miller of this place was ordained to the office of deacon for this congregation, Bro. J. M. Kreider officiating. May God abundantly bless and preserve him in this responsible position.

I. S. MAST

During the years 1915 and 1916 a mission Sunday school was held in a schoolhouse five miles northwest of Surrey. Some may think that this Sunday school was not a success because it was discontinued, but, had it not been for this Sunday school, two old people who have gone to their reward and have been buried in the cemetery near the church, would not have died in the Lord, as far as we can see. In 1917 the congregation enjoyed its largest membership, reaching 88.¹⁷ This year a call was made for a deacon and Ira L. Yoder was chosen by lot and ordained April 29, 1917.¹⁸

After communion (April 29) and the ordinance of feet washing was observed, votes were cast for a deacon to serve this congregation. Votes were cast for two brethren: David G. Kauffman and Ira L. Yoder. After an examination meeting at 6:00 P.M. ordination services were held at 7:00 the same day. The lot being used to decide which of the two brethren God should choose at this time, it fell on Ira L. Yoder. May we lift him to the throne of grace in prayer that he may always be found true and devoted to the responsible office in which he is called to serve. Services were conducted by our home bishop, Bro. I. S. Mast.

L. S. GLICK

In the year 1918 trouble arose in the congregation between the ministry and the laity concerning matters of congregational procedure and management and a committee consisting of Daniel Kauffman, Scottdale, Pennsylvania, Simon Gingerich, Wayland, Iowa, and D. G. Lapp, Rose-land, Nebraska, came in to settle the trouble and encourage peace and unity. C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, Ohio, held a series of meetings. In the spring of 1919 a session of Missouri-Iowa conference was held at the Fairview church dated June 9 to 11. Following this conference, B. B. Stoltzfus of Lima, Ohio, conducted a series of meetings. The annual Sunday school conference was held at Fairview.

The flu epidemic affected the group in 1920. Mrs. L. B. Yoder, one of the charter members, died of the disease. I. S. Mast was critically ill at the time and J. C. Gingerich of Wolford was called to conduct the funeral.

The first winter Bible school of the district was held here in the winter of 1921 from Dec. 12 to Jan. 6. J. C. Gingerich of Wolford and J. R. Shank of Carver, Missouri, were the instructors. In the summer Brother E. J. Berkey of Oronogo, Mo., conducted a series of meetings. In September Brother I. S. Mast and his family moved to Ulen, Minnesota. The reason given for his moving was short crops and scarcity of feed. A Bible conference was held during the summer with E. J. Berkey giving lessons on the tabernacle and Allen Good lecturing on the second coming of Christ.

The second conference of the newly formed Dakota-Montana district was held in June 1922, followed by a series of meetings by I. G. Hartzler of East Lynn, Missouri. In the fall deacon Ira L. Yoder moved with his family to Ulen, Minnesota. Because of poor crops the next few years a number of members moved away leaving the congregation crippled in its activities, but still the remaining ones struggled on. A number of visiting ministers stopped while passing through and encouraged the small group.

At the same time a number of the young people were attending the church school at Hesston, Kansas. The district conference convened here in 1928. This was the first year since 1904 that no series of meetings was held. Each year since 1904 a series of meetings has been held at the Fairview Church, except in 1928, 1929, 1946. In 1928 the district conference was held at Fairview Church and in 1929 H. A. Wolfer held four meetings. In 1946 the district conference and associated meeting was held here so in a sense it can be said that meetings have been conducted here each year since 1904. Those who conducted these meetings follow:

- 1904 George Lapp, Roseland, Nebr.
- 1905 Noah Metzler, Nappanee, Ind.
- 1906 A. D. Wenger, Millersville, Pa.
- 1907 J. E. Hartzler, East Lynn, Mo.
- 1908 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1909 J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.
- 1910 Eli S. Hallman, Cressman, Sask.
- 1911 John Blosser, Rawson, Ohio.
- 1912 John McCulloh, Cullom, Ill.
- 1913 B. B. King, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- 1914 S. G. Shetler, Hubbard, Oreg.
- 1915 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1916 S. E. Allgyer, West Liberty, Ohio.
- 1917 Andrew Shenk, Oronogo, Mo.
- 1918 C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, Ohio.
- 1919 B. B. Stoltzfus, Lima, Ohio.
- 1920 L. J. Miller, Garden City, Mo.
- 1921 E. J. Berkey, Oronogo, Mo.
- 1922 I. G. Hartzler, East Lynn, Mo.
- 1923 J. D. Charles, Hesston, Kans.
- 1924 C. F. Derstine, Eureka, Ill.
- 1925 Irvin Burkhardt, Goshen, Ind.
- 1926 Milo Kauffman, Hesston, Kans.
- 1927 I. G. Hartzler, East Lynn, Mo.
- 1928 No Meetings.
- 1929 H. A. Wolfer, four meetings, Sheridan, Oreg.
- 1930 Ed Yoder, Hubbard, Oreg.
- 1931 Archie Kauffman, Kenmare, N. Dak.
- 1932 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1933 Alva Swartzendruber, Hydro, Okla.
- 1934 C. A. Hartzler, Tiskilwa, Ill.
- 1935 No Meetings. At Logan by Paul Roth, Albany, Oreg.
- 1936 L. S. Yoder, Lyman, Miss.
- 1937 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1938 Dan Lapp, Roseland, Nebr.
- 1939 James Bucher, Upland, Calif.
- 1940 Sanford Shetler, Hollsopple, Pa.
- 1941 E. S. Garber, Nampa, Idaho.
- 1942 Elmer Hershberger, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- 1943 John Hochstetler, Creston, Mont.
- 1944 B. B. King, Sheldon, Wis.

- 1945 I. Mark Ross, Hesston, Kans.
- 1946 No Meetings.
- 1947 Protus Brubaker, Edwards, Mo.
- 1948 J. H. Stoll, Pleasant Lake, N. Dak.
- 1949 S. J. Miller, Leo, Ind.
- 1950 Orvin Hooley, Burr Oak, Mich.
- 1951 John F. Garber, Alma, Ont.
- 1952 T. E. Schrock, Clarksville, Mich.

Membership at Fairview as recorded in *Yearbook*:
No Yearbook issued during the years 1909-1912.

1905—12	1931—50
1906—48	1932—57
1907—48	1933—55
1908—48	1934—64
1913—48	1935—61
1914—62	1936—57
1915—62	1937—55
1916—62	1938—65
1917—62	1939—60
1918—82	1940—59
1919—82	1941—41
1920—82	1942—48
1921—82	1943—43
1922—32	1944—46
1923—46	1945—48
1924—33	1946—48
1925—33	1947—47
1926—33	1948—50
1927—33	1949—47
1928—33	1950—46
1929—42	1951—54
1930—35	1952—52

The following membership statistics taken from the *Yearbook* may not be entirely correct, for in some cases they do not correspond with the church record book. The *Yearbook* recorded the year previous, so one needs to deduct one year to get the proper membership for the year desired; for example, it is recorded that in 1905 th membership was 12. This is the membership for 1904.

The year 1927 marks the lowest number in membership since the beginning of the congregation, the membership being thirty.¹⁹ Ed Yoder of Hubbard, Oregon, held a series of meetings in 1930 and there were eight confessions. These converts were later received by water baptism. The congregation held a joint Ascension Day meeting with the Spring Valley congregation near Kenmare, North Dakota. At this meeting in 1930 F. P. Kauffman of Garden City, Missouri, suffered a stroke and died. This was

his first trip to Dakota. In September Brother L. S. Glick left the congregation and was engaged in mission work in the South. In the following October Brother L. A. Kauffman moved here with his family from Coalridge, Montana, and was given pastoral charge.

On Easter Sunday 1931 a mission Sunday school was started at the Logan schoolhouse nine miles south of Surrey. This continued until 1936 and since then the children are hauled to the annual summer Bible school held at the Fairview Church. Andrew Glick and Floyd Kauffman were chosen superintendents of the work. There were two series of meetings held at the Logan schoolhouse with D. F. Shenk and Paul Roth of Oregon as evangelists. A man and his wife accepted Christ but did not unite with us. A few years later Bro. L. A. Kauffman conducted the funeral service for the husband and father. On May 17, 1931, R. E. Myers was ordained to the office of deacon, serving the congregation until the spring of 1939 when he moved with his family to Meadville, Pennsylvania. The last Sunday of September 1931 marks the beginning of the Quarterly Sunday School meetings which have continued up to the present. Andrew Glick served as first moderator.

Since 1936 a summer Bible school for children of the congregation and the community has been held each June. The largest perfect attendance at any one term of Bible school was 116. The past few years, because the congregation lacked a sufficient number of qualified teachers, a service unit of five or six members has been secured to help in the teaching.

During the winter months of 1941 and 1942 Brother L. A. Kauffman and family were in California leaving the Fairview congregation without a pastor. The congregation was supplied with preaching about once a month from the Lakeview congregation at Wolford, North Dakota. Brother Kauffman returned again in the spring and took up his work as pastor. In June 1942 a call was made for the ordination of a minister and a deacon for the congregation. Three brethren received votes for the two offices and the lot was used between the two brethren that had votes for minister, and the lot fell on Brother Floyd Kauffman. Then the lot was used on the two remaining brethren for deacon and the lot fell on Brother S. K. Zook. Brother A. L. Glick was in the lot in both cases. The two brethren chosen were given their respective charges. The ordination service was in charge of the Brethren J. M. Kreider of Palmyra, Missouri, and E. G. Hochstetler of Mylo, North Dakota.

On the evening of July 22, 1942, while three boys were swimming, Fred, the son of L. A. Kauffman, was drowned. All that kind friends could do failed to restore him. He was buried in the cemetery near the church on July 26 with Brother E. G. Hochstetler in charge of the service.

On July 2, 1944, bishops E. G. Hochstetler and E. D. Hershberger were in our midst to take the voice of the congregation for the ordination of a bishop for the western part of the district. Votes were cast at this time. They proceeded to take the voice of the congregations at Coalridge and Bloomfield, Montana, returning on July 9, when the lot was cast between three brethren—L. A. Kauffman, Elmer Borntrager, and Floyd Kauffman.

The lot fell on Brother Floyd Kauffman, who was ordained bishop. In October Brother B. B. King of Sheldon, Wisconsin, held a series of meetings and gave instruction in a Bible Conference in connection with the meetings. Seven young persons confessed Christ and were added to the membership by water baptism.

In November 1948 a special peace conference was held at Fairview, emphasizing nonresistance as a principle of peace. H. A. Diener of Hutchinson, Kansas, was the special speaker. The conference was district-wide. In the spring of 1949 a special Easter service was conducted with Brother M. M. Troyer, of Conway, Kansas, and Brother Leroy Schrock, of Glen Flora, Wisconsin, as speakers.

The Sunday school of the Fairview congregation began a library about 1916. We find a resolution passed by the annual Sunday school conference held at the Spring Valley Church, June 21 and 22, 1915, near Kenmare, which reads as follows: "Because of the importance of Paul's admonition to Timothy (I Tim. 4:13) to give attendance to reading; also to study (I Tim. 2:15), and on account of spurious and cheap literature that is being circulated, we recommend that our Sunday schools counsel with their congregations and devise plans and take such steps as is seen fit to establish Sunday school libraries of pure and wholesome literature that is in harmony with Scripture. The books and literature to be examined and accepted or rejected as seen fit by the committee appointed to do so."²⁰ The Fairview Sunday School accordingly appointed Brother Ira L. Yoder as its first librarian in 1916. At present there are some two hundred volumes in the library.

Just when prayer meetings were first held is not known as no records were kept. But the records show that a prayer meeting was organized in 1925 which has continued to the present time. Different methods were used to choose the leader, and leaders served for varying lengths of time. Services were discontinued for a few weeks sometimes during the spring and fall seasons and when the weather was bad in the winter. For a number of years records were kept of each meeting and again for periods of time no records were kept.

Since 1944 a Good Friday evening service was held to commemorate the death of Jesus and remind us of what He has done for us. The Sisters' Sewing Circle has been meeting each month since May 13, 1914, when they met and organized for the first time.²¹ The years 1925-29 they supported two orphan girls in India instead of sewing. Their organization consists of president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. There was also a Junior Sewing Circle a few years under the supervision of the senior circle.

During the 50 years there have been 132 persons received by baptism, 94 by letter. From the membership thus received since the organization the following have been ordained to serve the congregation or church elsewhere (I. S. Mast being ordained minister at the time of organization).

J. M. Hartzler	Oct. 9, 1904	Minister	Deceased
I. T. Zook	Nov. 10, 1905	Deacon	Deceased
I. S. Mast	June 21, 1908	Bishop	Embreeville, Pa.
L. S. Glick	July 22, 1914	Minister	Deceased
S. P. Miller	June 13, 1915	Deacon	Deceased
Ira L. Yoder	Apr. 29, 1917	Deacon	Deceased
R. E. Myers	May 17, 1931	Deacon	Geneva, Pa.
S. K. Zook	June 30, 1942	Deacon	Hutchinson, Kans.
Floyd Kauffman	June 30, 1942	Minister	
Floyd Kauffman	June 9, 1944	Bishop	
Elvin Glick	July 13, 1952	Deacon	

Those ordained elsewhere and serving the church:

Nelson E. Kauffman	Aug. 26, 1934	Minister	Hannibal, Mo.
	Sept. 22, 1940	Bishop	
John E. Kurtz	Mar. 16, 1938	Minister	Harrisonburg, Va.
Carl Kauffman	Jan. 10, 1943	Deacon	Creston, Mont.
Earnest Kauffman	1948	Deacon	Wisner, Nebr.
Glenn B. Martin	Aug. 28, 1948	Minister	Lima, Ohio
			La Junta, Colo.

In the late 1940's a village sprang up about two miles east of the town of Minot known as Keyes' Addition, but more commonly known as East Minot. This village developed into a concentration of poor families living in old buildings and shacks that were for the most part moved in from other places. A number of the children from this area attended the summer Bible school terms at the Fairview Church. A minister named Arstorm began conducting a Sunday school and held services for a time. When he left early in the year 1951 he asked the Fairview Church to continue his work. This the church gladly consented to do. Services were held in a small dwelling until it was sold. While two of the sisters were doing visitation work they were led by the Lord to a building that was for sale. This appeared to be a suitable building in which to continue the Sunday school. After several brethren had made investigation a meeting was called of the members to consider the purchase of the building. This was afterward called Rockway Gospel Chapel.

Minutes of the meeting held at the Earl Martin home April 16, 1951:
Meeting was in charge of Brother Floyd Kauffman.

Prayer by A. L. Glick.

A majority of members were present.

The purchasing of the building in East Minot was discussed at some length.

It was moved and passed that the congregation purchase the building and have it deeded to the District Mission Board.

It was also moved and passed that A. L. Glick and Lawrence King select a third member to constitute a committee to manage the work.

Adjournment.

Minutes of the committee meeting held April 19, 1951:

A. L. Glick and L. A. King chose Earl Martin as third member of the managing committee.

L. A. King was chosen as superintendent of the work.

Teachers chosen for the Sunday school were: Ida Kauffman, Sylvia Martin, Sadie King, and A. L. Glick.

Adjournment.

Sunday school was held each Sunday afternoon and preaching service every two weeks on Friday evenings. Dedication of the building was held Nov. 25, 1951. John Stoll, Field Evangelist of the North Central District preached the dedicatory sermon. This was followed by a series of evening sermons. Three boys expressed a desire to take Christ as Saviour and an effort was made to instruct them in the Christian life. A few meetings were held with them. Then they requested the privilege to go and unite with another group.

Sunday school was held each Sunday afternoon until April 1, 1952, when it was changed to the forenoon. The young people's meeting was changed from the Fairview Church to the Rockway Gospel Chapel during the first quarter of 1952. The program consisted of Bible study and a short sermon each Sunday evening.

Preaching service was held quite regularly every two weeks on Friday evening at the Chapel during the summer months. From Oct. 23 to Nov. 9, 1952, Brother Mark Ross of Hesston, Kansas, held a series of meetings which were well attended and 13 confessed Christ as Saviour, nine adults and young people and four children. These are being instructed in the Christian life in preparation for baptism.

1. *Herald of Truth*, March 19, 1903, p. 92.
2. Mrs. Israel Yoder.
3. *Herald of Truth*, May 19, 1904, p. 164.
4. *Herald of Truth*, Nov. 3, 1904, p. 356.
5. *Herald of Truth*, May 11, 1905, p. 148.
6. *Herald of Truth*, Nov. 23, 1905, p. 372.
7. *Herald of Truth*, July 12, 1905, p. 220.
8. A. K. Mast.
9. *Herald of Truth*, Jan. 17, 1907, p. 29.
10. *Herald of Truth*, July 12, 1906, p. 257.
11. Report in *Gospel Herald*, July 18, 1908, p. 254.
12. *Gospel Herald*, July 11, 1908, p. 237.
13. *Gospel Herald*, Dec. 9, 1909, p. 584.
14. *Gospel Herald*, Dec. 16, 1909, p. 600.
15. *Gospel Herald*, July 30, 1914, p. 289.
16. *Gospel Herald*, June 24, 1915, p. 220.
17. Church record book. But *Mennonite Yearbook* says 82.
18. *Gospel Herald*, May 10, 1917, p. 105.
19. Church record book; *Mennonite Yearbook* says 33.
20. Resolution in Sunday School Conference secretary book dated 1909-1920.
21. Sewing Circle Record Book No. 1.



Mr. and Mrs. Israel Yoder by their home one and a half miles north of Surrey. They located here in 1902 coming from near West Liberty, Ohio.



Wedding picture of Isaac S. Mast and Fanny R. Yoder taken 1900. Mast was ordained minister in March, 1903, for the colony that came to Surrey on April 2, 1903. He was pastor of the Fairview congregation from March, 1903, to 1921, when he with his family moved to Ulen, Minnesota.



The Levi B. Yoder family who came to Surrey in 1903. Picture taken in 1907. From left to right: Levi, Barbara, Lizzie, Emma, Sallie, Fannie, Ira, Mrs. Levi B., Sam, Levi B. Yoder. Five grandchildren: Timothy, Charity, Eunice Mast, Floyd and Durbin Yoder.



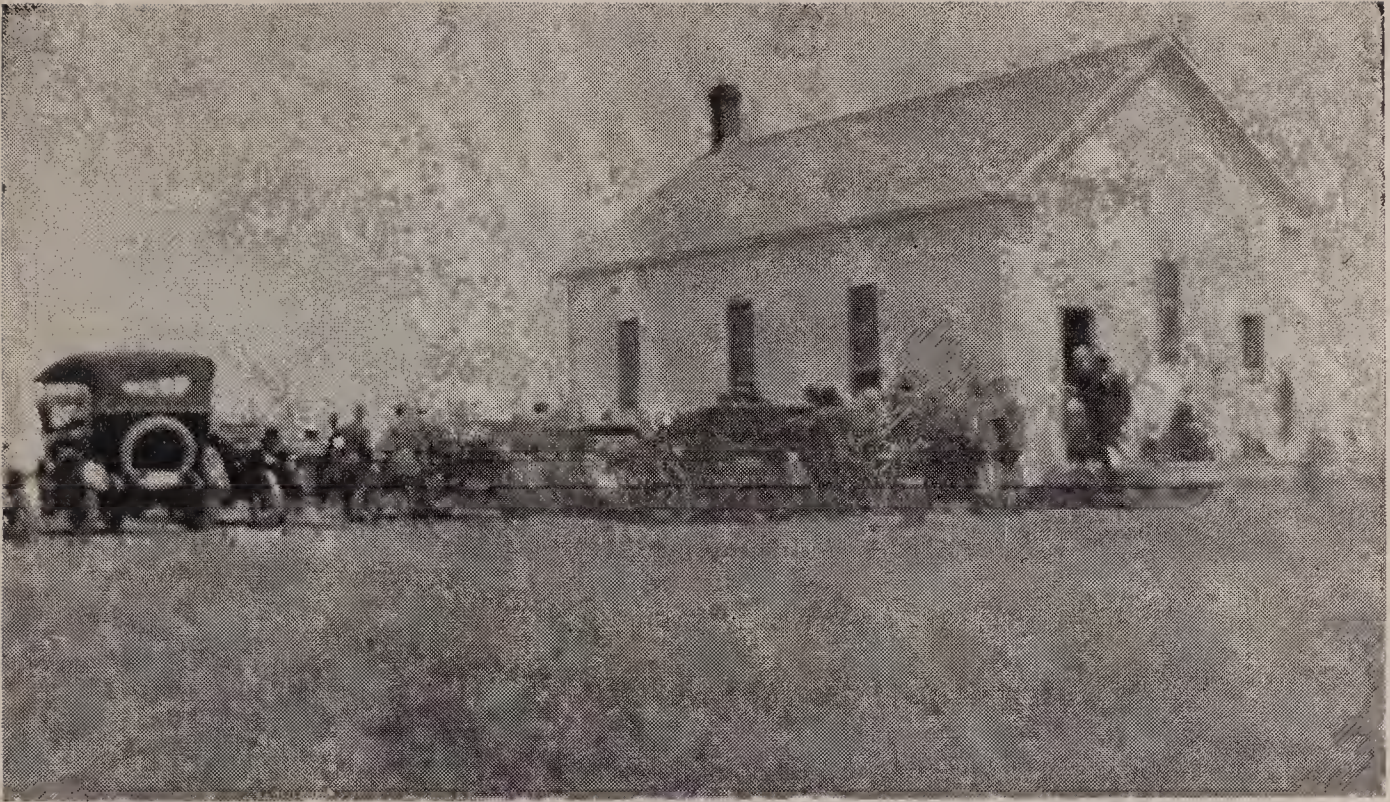
*Fairview Sisters Sewing circle taken about 1918.
Back row, left to right: Sallie Yoder, Dora Yoder, Barbara Zook, Anna
Kauffman, Fanny Mast, Ida Martin, Rachel Yoder, Ella Glick.
Seated: Mrs. L. B. Yoder, Alice Miller, Mollie Smucker, Armeda Kidder,
Babbie Yoder, Minnie Glick.*



Taken in St. Paul Depot in the spring of 1904 on their way to locate at Surrey. Left to right. Back row: Dave Yoder, Jr., (next two persons not of group) Joe Z. Yoder holding daughter Edna, Mrs. Joe Z. Yoder holding daughter Edith, Mattie Yoder, Milton Zook. Second rows Mrs. Dave Yoder, Jr., Dave Yoder, Sr., Mrs. Dave Yoder, Sr., Mattie Yoder, (standing behind Mr. and Mrs. Dave Yoder), Mary Newman, Mollie Hartzler, Mrs. Milton Zook and son. (unable to name the children.)



Daniel B. Kauffman Family taken about the fall of 1925, near Hubbard, Oregon. He was pastor of the Spring Valley congregation from 1904 to 1919.



The Spring Valley Church near Kenmare during a conference about 1918 or 1919.



Levi C. Kauffman and wife Rebecca, resident at Kenmare for many years. Ordained deacon for the Spring Valley congregation October 23, 1926, serving till 1939 when he moved to Hesston, Kansas.



Joseph L. Lehman and Stella his wife. As a minister he served the Spring Valley congregation from October, 1921, to October, 1928, when he met with an accident which resulted in his death.

History of the Spring Valley Congregation

EDWARD L. KAUFFMAN

Before 1870 there was not much settlement in what is now North Dakota because the Indians were warlike and transportation was poor. In 1870 railroads were built across the fertile Red River Valley. Stories about the wonderful wheat crops in North Dakota made their way back east. Soon after this immigrants began arriving from many European countries, mainly northern European countries. In 1881 the Northern Pacific railroad reached the Montana border, and in 1887 the Great Northern reached as far westward as Minot. The disappearance of the Indians and the opening of transportation with the accompanying propaganda by the railroad companies and opportunity for homesteading brought many immigrants from other states as well as from Europe.

Perhaps it cannot be determined when the first Mennonite family moved to North Dakota.¹ The obituary of John J. Kauffman in the *Herald of Truth* (Nov. 25, 1905) states that he moved to North Dakota in 1889. This, however, is a typographical error and should have been 1899. One of the first Mennonite families to locate in North Dakota was Daniel B. Kauffman, son of John J. Kauffman mentioned above, who with his wife made the twelve hundred mile trip from Cass County, Missouri, to Kenmare, North Dakota, with team and wagon in the summer of 1899.

Daniel Kauffman staked a homestead on the quarter section of land southwest of where the church building was later located. This location was seven miles south of Kenmare, which at that time was in its beginning. To the east of Kauffman's homestead about four miles was a railroad station which at that time was called Galva. The first correspondence in the *Herald of Truth* from this community is addressed from here.²

Other families soon followed the Daniel Kauffman family. In the winter of 1899-1900 John J. Kauffmans moved here from Cass County, Missouri, and Lew Morningstar and family from Indiana. Gideon Sharp and Menno B. Detwiler with their families arrived in the following spring from Cass County, Missouri.

There were no Sunday school or church services until in the summer of 1901 when a union Sunday school was started. These services were held in a schoolhouse. Occasional preaching services were held with Methodist, Evangelical, Lutheran, and Mennonite ministers taking charge.

The first communion service for Mennonite members was held in the spring of 1902 with Brother J. J. Hartzler from Garden City, Missouri, officiating. Eleven members took part in this first service.

In 1903 Brother David D. Zook of Newton, Kansas, held a series of evangelistic meetings and six more members were added by baptism to the group. Members were later added by letter so that by the spring of 1905 there were twenty-five members.

The first correspondence from the group at Kenmare in the *Herald of Truth* was dated Feb. 26, 1903.

Galva, N. Dak.—We as a little brotherhood are located a few miles south of Kenmare along the Soo railroad. We have good soil and cheap fuel. We invite those anticipating a change in their location to come and see us before locating. We would be glad to have any of our ministers, passing through the state, to visit us. We are but few members and seldom hear the gospel preached. Asking an interest in your prayers, I remain your brother in the faith, D. B. KAUFFMAN.

Another settlement of Mennonites was forming near Minot, North Dakota. This location is also designated as Surrey. Minot is located about 50 miles southeast of Kenmare. The Mennonite settlers here were largely from the Big Valley in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. They came in a group and brought their minister with them. The following quotation is taken from the *Herald of Truth*.

Allensville, Pa.—As about twenty or more of our members will move to Surrey, North Dakota, in the near future, we believe it has been wisely decided to hold communion services on March 15, and with the help of God to ordain a minister from among the colony who contemplate moving to that place. By the kind providence of God they expect to hold church services, Sunday school, and Bible meetings regularly every Sunday as soon as they arrive at their destination. May the grace and richest blessings of God rest and abide forever on the new church. Cor.

Brother Isaac Mast was the minister who was ordained. He was the first minister of the Mennonite church to settle in North Dakota.³ He ministered to the group at Surrey and filled a monthly appointment at Kenmare until a minister was ordained at that place. In October 1904 Brother J. M. Hartzler was ordained to the ministry to assist Brother Mast.

On October 6, 1904, Brother Daniel B. Kauffman was ordained to the ministry at Kenmare and Brother Amos C. Ogburn was ordained to the office of deacon.⁴ Brother Sam Lapp of South English, Iowa, officiated in these ordinations. At this time it was also decided to erect a church building. Upon their organization both congregations were admitted into the Missouri-Iowa Mennonite conference district.

The charter members of the Spring Valley congregation (Kenmare) were:

Detwiler, Sadie
Kauffman, D. B.
Kauffman, Mattie

Ogburn, Lydia
Ogburn, Charles

Kauffman, John J.
 Kauffman, Martha
 Kauffman, Alpha
 Kauffman, Joseph
 Kauffman, Willie
 Morningstar, Lew M.
 Morningstar, Fannie
 Morningstar, Arthur
 Miller, Fannie
 Ogburn, Amos C.

Ogburn, Anna
 Ogburn, Otis
 Renno, Samuel G.
 Sharp, Gideon
 Sharp, Salina
 Sharp, Nettie
 Sharp, Elmer
 Wenger, Chris
 Weaver, Jerry
 Weaver, Alice

The building which was begun in the fall of 1904 was completed in the spring of 1905. A correspondence note in the *Herald of Truth*⁵ reads as follows:

Baden, N. Dak. April 30, 1905.—We have our new meeting house completed and held the first services Saturday evening, March 17, and on Sunday, March 18, held a Sunday School Conference. On the 26 of March we organized our Sunday School, also young people's meeting. On Sunday, April 2, we held our first Sunday school.

ALPHA KAUFFMAN

In 1908 Brother I. S. Mast of Surrey was ordained to the office of bishop to serve the two congregations. In a *Gospel Herald* editorial⁶ appears the following note:

Bishop Ordained.—Bro. I. S. Mast of Surrey, North Dakota, was ordained bishop on June 21. Bishop Daniel Kauffman of Versailles, Mo., officiating. He is the first and only bishop in the state and will serve the congregations in that vicinity. The prayers of the people are with the brother in his high and responsible position.⁷

Brother I. S. Mast served as the only bishop in the Dakota district until the ordination of Brother Eli G. Hochstetler at Wolford, North Dakota, in 1926. Until he moved from the district in 1941 he served diligently and gave unstintingly of his service in spite of many privations.

Brother D. B. Kauffman served as the only minister until in 1912 when Levi A. Kauffman moved from Fairview, Michigan. Levi A. Kauffman helped in the ministry here until in 1916 at which time he moved to Coalridge, Montana.

In 1919 D. B. Kauffman moved to Hubbard, Oregon, and the congregation was without a resident minister for two years. On October 30, 1921, Joseph L. Lehman was ordained to this office and served in this capacity for seven years. On October 10, 1928, Lehman met with an accident which resulted in his death and the small flock was again without a shepherd.

On April 14, 1929, Archie Kauffman was ordained to the ministry and served in that capacity until the fall of 1937 when he moved to Molalla, Oregon. By this time the membership was quite small and no minister was ordained after this time.

Amos C. Ogburn moved to Westover, Maryland, in 1916 and no other deacon was ordained until 1926 when Levi C. Kauffman was called to that office. Levi C. Kauffman moved away in 1939 at which time only two members were left.

While the congregation existed it was active and aggressive. It supported the work of the church and its various institutions. For a number of years the congregation farmed a number of acres as a "God's acre" project. This was in the years of drouth and depression and was not greatly successful from a financial standpoint. It is certain that the same amount of time and effort in the nineteen forties would have yielded thousands of dollars.

The first summer Bible school was conducted in 1933 with Margaret Horst and Fanny Chupp as teachers. This was also the first summer Bible school in the conference district. Other summer Bible schools were held as follows:

- 1934 Teachers, Margaret Gingerich and Erma Martin.
- 1937 Teachers, Archie Kauffman, Lena Kreider, Lucille Mullet, and Iva Kauffman.
- 1938 Teachers, Eunice Mast, Lydia Hershberger, Eva Kauffman.

As stated previously J. J. Hartzler from Garden City, Missouri, held the first communion service at Kenmare in 1902. In the year 1903 D. D. Zook from Newton, Kansas, held a series of evangelistic meetings. Meetings of this type were held nearly every year from 1903 until 1937. Following is a list of ministers and bishops who served as evangelists and Bible teachers:

- 1903 D. D. Zook, Newton, Kans.
- 1904 George Lapp, Roseland, Nebr.
- 1905 Noah Metzler, Nappanee, Ind.
- 1906 A. D. Wenger, Millersville, Pa.
- 1907 J. E. Hartzler, East Lynne, Mo.
- 1908 Bible Conference
Daniel Kauffman, Versailles, Mo.
Henry Harder, Excelsior, Mo.

(A note in the *Gospel Herald*, states that the subjects discussed were: faith, baptism, nonconformity to the world, repentance, communion, conversion, sanctification, devotional covering, secret societies, the model home, and missions. A. A. K.)⁸

- 1909 J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.
- 1910 E. S. Hallman, Cressman, Sask.
- 1911 John Blosser, Rawson, Ohio
- 1912 No meetings.
- 1913 B. B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
- 1914 S. G. Shetler, Hubbard, Oreg.
- 1915 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1916 S. E. Allgyer, West Liberty, Ohio
- 1917 Andrew Shenk, Oronogo, Mo.
- 1918 C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, Ohio
- 1919 J. R. Shank, Carver, Mo.
- 1920 R. W. Benner, Job, W. Va.
L. J. Miller, Garden City, Mo.
- 1921 E. J. Berkey, Oronogo, Mo.
- 1922 I. G. Hartzler, East Lynn, Mo.
- 1923 J. D. Charles, Hesston, Kans.

- 1924 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1925 J. D. Mininger, Kansas City, Kans.
- 1926 Milo Kauffman, Hesston, Kans.
- 1927 Abner G. Yoder, Parnell, Iowa
- 1928 J. Y. Swartzendruber, Kalona, Iowa
- 1929 J. C. Gingerich, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- 1930 S. S. Hershberger, Harrisonville, Mo.
- 1931 No meetings.
- 1932 Milo Kauffman, Hesston, Kans.
- 1933 J. P. Bontrager, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 1934 D. D. Miller, Protection, Kans.
D. F. Shenk, Sheridan, Oreg.
- 1935 John Stoll, Mylo, N. Dak.
- 1936 L. S. Yoder, Lyman, Miss.
- 1937 J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.
- 1938 L. A. Kauffman, Surrey, N. Dak.

The congregation was under the Missouri-Iowa Mennonite conference until the year 1921 when the Dakota-Montana Mennonite conference held its meeting at Wolford, North Dakota, on June 23, 24, 1921. The congregations in the newly formed district included Ulen, Minnesota; Wolford, North Dakota; Surrey, and Kenmare, North Dakota; Coalridge, Bloomfield, and Calkins, Montana. The total membership was 194. This small conference district was not made altogether independent as delegates were to be received each year at the annual meeting from the following conferences: Illinois, Iowa-Nebraska, Missouri-Kansas, and the Pacific Coast. The delegates from these conferences were warmly welcomed by the local conference and were often used quite extensively in evangelistic work and Bible teaching.

The first Sunday-school superintendents were Alpha Kauffman and Milton Zook. Others who served in this office are listed below:

Amos C. Ogburn	Archie Kauffman
Levi A. Kauffman	George Kauffman
Harry L. King	John Kauffman
Joseph L. Lehman	Raymond Jacques
William R. Kauffman	W. E. Harris

Young People's meeting was organized at the time of the dedication of the church and has always been a part of the program of the church except at certain periods of time, especially during the severe winter weather. Midweek meetings were often a part of the schedule also. Earlier this meeting was called a teachers' meeting and the Sunday school lesson for the following Sunday was previewed. The congregation never had an extension Sunday school nor an extension Bible school. Evangelistic efforts, however, resulted in the addition of several members from the outside.

According to the record there were ninety members received into church by water baptism during the 40 years of its existence. Some thirty members were received by letter and eight by confession. From this

number fourteen were ordained to serve the church at Spring Valley or elsewhere; 1 bishop, 9 ministers, and 3 deacons.

1 bishop

Milo Kauffman, Hesston, Kans.

9 ministers

D. B. Kauffman, Deceased

Ed Yoder, Hubbard, Oreg.

J. L. Lehman, Deceased

Archie Kauffman, Lebanon, Oreg.

George Kauffman, Tangent, Oreg.

Edward Kauffman, Hesston, Kans.

Jess Kauffman, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Chester Kauffman, Hubbard, Oreg.

Amos King, Westover, Md.

3 deacons

Amos Ogburn, Gettysburg, Pa.

J. A. Kauffman, Garden City Mo.

L. C. Kauffman, Deceased

(Inserted by Floyd E. Kauffman)

The church membership was never very large. From the Mennonite *Yearbook* the following statistics are taken. The number given in the *Yearbook* for any particular year is taken from the records of the previous year, so one will need to deduct one year from each of the following in order to get the proper number for that year. For instance, the number recorded in 1940 is ten, which was the membership as of June 1939. The accuracy of these numbers may also be questioned, as they remain quite constant over a period of several years in some instances and most likely were not kept up to date:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Membership</i>		
		1925	30
1906	36	1926	30
1907	36	1927	25
1908	36	1928	25
1909-1912	No Yearbooks published	1929	31
1913	32	1930	35
1914-1915	32	1931	35
1916	32	1932	36
1917	32	1933	37
1918	46	1934	47
1919	46	1935	48
1920	46	1936	22
1921	46	1937	23
1922	46	1938	21
1923	27	1939	12
1924	30	1940	10

No record is made in the *Yearbook* of the congregation after this time. During the depression and dry years of the thirties the members began moving away. From about 1930 until about 1940 farming was very difficult in this area. Crops failed year after year. Often there was not enough

foliage to produce feed for the cattle, and grain crops were nearly a total failure. This condition continued, not only for two or three years, but for eight or ten. This continuous attack from drouth, grasshoppers, blight, wind-storms, and economic depression induced many people to look about for an environment which would offer greater economic security than they found here. Even before the drouth years there were very few if any of the Mennonite families who owned unmortgaged farms. The soil was good, but the rainfall was uncertain and too little. A picture of the situation which these people faced in the early thirties is described in a feature article by L. C. Kauffman and printed in the Sept. 27, 1934, issue of the *Gospel Herald*.

Occasionally we get letters from some friends asking about conditions here. In our thirty-five years in North Dakota we have had what we called dry years, but those who planted corn always had fodder, and potatoes never failed until this year, when they are almost a failure. Some farmers pulled their corn because it was too small to even mow. Others mowed their corn, while others just turned their stock into it, and of course it didn't take them long to clean it up.

Archie Kauffman threshed fifty-three bushels of wheat, the only threshing done in this neighborhood, and I think in this township. Grasshoppers also did a lot of damage to both crops and gardens; very few people had any garden at all. The pastures were brown nearly all summer. Most of the stock lived on Russian thistles and are doing so yet. Nearly every farmer sold stock to the government, and some sold all their cattle and sheep. Cattle buying began in June. This was known as the first appraisal, and it was completed Sept. 10 in our county. Twenty-five thousand, eight hundred and forty-six head of cattle were shipped out. The second or last appraisal will soon begin which will include some 8,000 head—that is, for only one county. Some farmers have no feed at all; others have a little; a few have enough. Old straw piles are being used, and some straw has already been shipped in, which sells at \$8 per ton, hay up to \$20, corn 90¢ and up, oats around 70¢. (Grain prices were only a fraction of the prices listed here. E.K.)

Such is the condition here. Fifty miles southeast is somewhat better. One hundred and fifty to two hundred miles east and northeast they report a good crop. Our government is putting forth strenuous efforts to take care of the people, making loans to buy feed, furnishing coal, flour, and cloth, and giving the people a chance to work it out on the roads. This is something that will be felt for many years if Christ tarries His coming. Plans are under way to ship in potatoes and vegetables, which are quite plentiful in the eastern part of the state. Sept. 17, 1934.

By October 1, 1939, there were only two members remaining in the community, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Harris. In 1941 they moved to Michigan. And so the community that saw the first Mennonite family arrive in 1899 saw the last Mennonite family leave in 1941. The church building was sold and moved away. It is no longer used for religious services. There remains a cemetery which contains a score or more of tombstones and some unmarked graves.

The community is more sparsely settled now than formerly. Land has gone into the hands of a few and is being farmed on a larger scale.

The Spring Valley congregation has not died out. It has dispersed. Today it lives in the hearts and lives of many people throughout the United States—in Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Missouri, and other places. Those who moved away did not forsake their greater loyalty. They were cautious in choosing only locations where they and their families could have church privileges and where they could have opportunities to witness for the Lord. Heaven alone can reveal the eternal values which have resulted from the work of the faithful ones who labored during these forty-two years in this community where the Spring Valley Church once stood.

In the very hour in which I finish this paper begins the funeral service of one of the charter members of the congregation, Salina Sharp Hartzler, at Fairview, Michigan. Of the twenty-five charter members at least thirteen are yet living.

E.K. 2 P.M. May 12, 1949

1. There is a record of Amish families locating in Rolette County in 1894.
2. *Herald of Truth*, Feb. 26, 1903, p. 68.
3. Bro. Mast was the first minister of the (old) Mennonite Church to settle in North Dakota. The Amish were settling in Rolette County and quite probably may have had a minister before this time.
4. There is some question as to the exact date of the ordination but safely within the period of October 4-6.
5. *Herald of Truth*, May 11, 1905, p. 149.
6. *Gospel Herald*, July 4, 1908, p. 216.
7. An Amish bishop is referred to in the *Herald of Truth*, Sept. 24, 1903, p. 306.
8. *Gospel Herald*, July 4, 1908, p. 217.

